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SUBJECT: SEOUL - MEDIA REACTION

Subject: Media Reaction; Seoul

State of the Union Address

"Obama's State of the Union Address Leaves Something to be Desired"

Washington Correspondent Hwang Yu-suk observed in moderate Hankook Ilbo (02/01): "President Obama's January 27 State of the Union Address provided him with a chance to reveal his visions for reform to the public. However, he failed to win understanding from the opposition party and the public because he identified his administration's problems as 'historical challenges' the U.S. has confronted in the past. The public did not want to hear about a raft of economic measures but how the President will run politics in a flexible manner, i.e. how he will put congressional politics back to normal. President Obama, however, stopped short of delivering this. ... We sympathize with a remark by a Republican who said that what President Obama needs is not eloquent words but actions."

STEPHENS